The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and political fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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SAVE FOOD—Help Relieve Famine Abroad

WHOLE NO. 1829 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 1946 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 36, NO. 18

Militant Southern Organizing Drive Pledged by Green to Textile Workers

Washington, D. C.—An aggressive, militant drive to organize the workers of the South was pledged by AFL President William Green in the keynote address before the convention of the United Textile Workers of America here.

"I pledge you the full support of the American Federation of Labor, financially and in the help of trained organizers in your campaign to bring the underpaid workers of the South into the House of Labor," Mr. Green told the convention delegates.

Assailing the "raiding tactics" of the CIO, Mr. Green predicted such a practice would be of no avail against the tried and proven soundness and record of the AFL.

"Nothing can stop or slow our drive to organize the South," he said. "We cannot be turned aside from the militant, aggressive, uncompromising campaign which we have planned. It does not matter whether we are opposed by the rebel, rival union or groups of employers. We are going to ride roughshod over them until we have fully organized the entire section."

Tagging the CIO with left-wing leadership, Mr. Green lashed out vigorously at "the Bridges, the Currans, the Fiazers, the Eleanor Nelsons and all that group of Communists which form that rebel, rival movement."

The drive throughout the South, Mr. Green said, will be begun early in May and will be continued indefinitely.

"But," he added, "this does not mean that we are only now beginning to organize the South. We have been organizing in the south for half a century. The AFL has organized state federations of labor in every southern state and central labor bodies in every southern city of substantial size.

"The textile industry is your territory. You must not be satisfied with 30,000 or 100,000 members. The entire potential field must be covered.

The people in the textile field are underpaid. They believe the words in the House of Labor and not in an organization dominated by foreign, totalitarian interests."

Citing severe setbacks to the CIO, Mr. Green emphasized the return to the American Federation of Labor of two giant unions which had "left us flat for experimentation "and learned their lesson after paying a terrible price."

"First, it was the great International Ladies Garment Workers Union, one of the strongest and richest unions in the United States," he said. "They reached the point where they would stand it no longer and they came home.

"Next it was the powerful United Mine Workers. It was fed up and told the CIO 'We've had enough,' and its members are now back in the fold. Thus a million members who had left the AFL learned in time that they belonged not in an experimental organization, but back in the House of Labor. Similarly, others will find their way back and as they do they will find me with hand outstretched to welcome them."

In addition to the textile field, Mr. Green said, the drive in the South will include the rubber, furniture, rubber and chemical workers.

Anthony Valenti, international president of the United Textile Workers, assured Mr. Green that his union's drive in the South would continue until it is satisfied it has fully organized the people in their craft throughout the South. He called on the members for an increase in dues from $1 to $1.50 monthly to finance the organizing drive.

Lloyd Kienert, international secretary, reported the average wage for textile workers had risen from 48.2 cents an hour in 1940 to 80.3 cents in 1945. He said that in the last 2 years UTW membership had grown 47.5 percent, with union locals now covering an area from Canada to Texas and from Maine to California."

Say, Listen!

Forthcoming radio programs in the "Cross Section—AFL" series broadcast each Saturday at 2:45 p.m., Eastern Time, over the nation-wide Columbia Broadcasting System, are listed below for the information of trade unionists everywhere so that they can make advance plans to tune in:

May 11.—Printing Trades. John B. Haggerty, president of the International Allied Printing Trades Association; and Oscar Whitehouse, secretary of the union employers of the Printing Industry of America, will talk from a printing plant in Washington, D. C.

May 18.—Garment Trades. Members of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union will tell a dramatic story of how organization has benefited workers in the industry.

May 25.—Report from the South. George Googe, AFL Regional Director, and David Lilienthal, TVA chairman, will describe the advances won by AFL organization of southern workers.

CROSS SECTION--AFL

No. 3—Government Workers

(Featuring Lee George, president of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks; Mrs. Bernice Heffner, secretary of the American Federation of Government Employees; and Joseph Lasagni, assistant secretary of the National Letter Carriers' Association, AFL leaders representing a quarter of a million AFL workers, interviewed at Washington, D. C., by Dwight Cooke, CBS commentator.)

Problems of federal government employes, their struggle through the war period and uncertainties in meeting postwar conditions were placed before the country in the third of a series of radio programs presented by the AFL over the Columbia Broadcasting System.

"Uncle Sam should be the model employer of the nation," he added. "He should set the pace for wages in industry. We can't say that he is the model employer he should be."

Mrs. Heffner pointed out that, though her union has 42,000 members scattered over the United States and its possessions, of whom 60 percent are women, the average wage for the typical member is $33 a week.

"Taking out fixed charges, including taxes," she said, "she is left with about $25, and out of this she must pay her board and room, transportation, church donations, amusements and also for her clothes and upkeep."

Mrs. Heffner urged strong support for pending legislation which would increase the wages of her group and the postal workers.

George, discussing problems of postal workers, expressed hope that Congress will approve pending legislation to aid this group in its fight for a wage increase.

"Our bill, as passed by the House," he said, "provides an increase of $400 a year for our postal workers. That's to meet the increased cost of living and to make up for the loss in take-home pay caused by the reduction in overtime. The average pay now is around $2,400 a year."

George told Cooke the Senate Post Office Committee reported out the pending postal increase bill favorably and that he hopes soon to see it enacted.

Keating, explaining the handicaps under which letter carriers are obliged to work, pointed out that the mail bags, weighing up to 50 pounds and are carried on foot over routes as long as 20 miles in rain, snow or blistering heat.

"A pair of shoes will probably last a carrier two weeks," he said. "Happily, the Office recognizes our problem and has given us the right to purchase shoes for extra shoes. One thing that has always impressed me in the government service is that our people are imbued with the idea of giving service—it's fundamental in the government."

All three speakers made it plain to their listeners that they are obliged to turn to collective bargaining as a means of securing the wage increases which means the people, and can't strike like other unions" to enforce wage demands.

As George summed it up:

"Wages in private industry have been rising steadily since 1935. We had no increase in 20 years until last year. If we get the increase we've approved by the House and a Senate committee, we'll still be far behind in the parade as far as wages are concerned. And I would like to say that the American Federation of Labor is 100 percent behind us in this effort."

ILGWU PLEDGES $100,000 FOR SCHOOL IN PALESTINE

New York City.—A pledge of $100,000 to the construction of trade unions in Palestine for construction of a vocational school in Haifa, Palestine, for the Jewish people by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' (AFL) David Dubinsky, ILGWU president, announced.

Unions in Palestine have agreed to raise an additional $100,000 to meet the total cost of the project, which provided for 1-week vacations after a year's employment and 2 weeks after 5 years' employment and 3 weeks after 10 years' employment.

The new school, it was announced, will be the first of the trade union institutions in Palestine to be completed and put into operation.

N. Y. TUGBOAT WORKERS WIN LONG WAGE DISPUTE

New York City.—Twenty-six hundred members of the Marine and Shipyard Workers (AFL) tugboat unions in the port crafts reached an agreement with their employers 3 months after negotiations began.

The pact, to run to January 1, 1947, was won by Local 333, United Marine Workers, International Longshoremen's Association, AFL. It gave a general increase of 15 cents an hour, the equivalent of $6 a week for a 40-hour week, and provided for 1-week vacations after a year's employment and 2 weeks after 5 years' employment.

Red Leadership Dooms CIO Units, Green Says

Chicago.—Predicting great advances for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes, AFL President William Green told the union's convention here that its rival counterpart in the CIO is doomed to failure because it is "dominated and controlled" by Communists.

"You are an American organization. You do not believe in struggle against the government. Your opposition cannot succeed because you are not dominated by those who owe first allegiance to a foreign government. The state and local government employes of our nation will never respond to such treacherous leadership."

Mr. Green emphasized the progress gains made by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes under President Arnold Zander since the union was chartered by the AFL in 1936.

At that time, Mr. Green recalled, the organization consisted of a few scattered federal union locals with a membership of 10,000. Now the union has grown to a membership of 76,000 and is still going strong.

Failure of the CIO's attempts to raid this field was confirmed, Mr. Green pointed out, by the fact that its State, County and Municipal employes affiliated in the South were forced to merge with the CIO's United Federal Workers Union to avoid being wiped out altogether.

The AFL chief also commented caustically on reports from Atlantic City where the CIO merger was being effected that the new CIO group had adopted resolutions criticizing the United States and Britain for maintaining troops in foreign territories but failed to utter one word of protest against Soviet Russia's belligerent foreign policies.

"Such resolutions show how thoroughly the Communists control this CIO unit," Mr. Green declared.

At the same time, Mr. Green predicted that the AFL's forthcoming organizing drive in the South would snare many the CIO's efforts in that field because "workers in the South will reject the false, Communist leadership" of the CIO campaign.

Rail Express Agency Strike Averted As Truman Acts to Settle Dispute

Washington, D. C.—The projected walkout of 65,000 workers of the Railway Express Agency was averted when President Truman invoked the emergency fact-finding committee section of the Railway Labor Act, empowering him to set up a board to examine the dispute.

The walkout, called by the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employes (AFL), was decided on only after the agency rejected a request for a 16-cent-an-hour wage increase, a raise recently awarded railway employes by the National Mediation Board.

Word of the President's executive order was sent to locals by George M. Harrison, grand president of the brotherhood. It was received in the locals from his Cincinnati headquarters, Mr. Harrison conceded the union membership to "refrain from striking pending the receipt of the findings of the fact-finding board."

In his executive order, President Truman said the dispute, involving wages, was regarded by the National Mediation Board as a threat to interstate commerce, that might "deprive a large section of the country of essential transportation service." The fact-finding board will report to the President within 30 days. For 30 days after the report is submitted, no strike may be called and no change may be made in conditions from which the dispute arose, except by agreement of the parties involved.

This executive order was the second issued by the President within 2 months to avert a strike of Railway Express Agency employes. Last October a similar order forestalled a strike by drivers for the agency in 9 cities, involving the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and Chauffeurs (AFL).

The current dispute is solely a matter of wages. The workers are demanding a pay increase of 16 cents an hour, similar to that recommended for other railroad workers in recent arbitration proceedings. The company, according to Mr. Harrison, has offered 10 cents.

Hollywood Musicians Win Wage Increase of 33%

New York City.—An increase of 44 percent in the number of musicians regularly employed in Hollywood studios and a 33 percent raise in their annual wages are provided in a contract approved by the 4 motion picture producers and the American Federation of Musicians (AFL), headed by James C. Petrillo.

The percentage increase in annual wages was believed to be the highest negotiated by a major industry and a union since V-J Day, both groups announced. The 33 percent increase in annual wages estimates that the cost of living had risen one-third since Jan. 1, 1941, the date the regularly employed musicians last received a pay increase.

Under the contract, which runs until Labor Day, 1947, the 352 musicians agree to engage on a yearly basis a total of 339 musicians in the 8 studios, increase their present quota of 235. The annual wage was fixed at $6,916, against the present figure of $5,200.

Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's, Inc., parent company of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, who acted as spokesman for the producers, said the increased quota of regular instrumentalists in the studios would prove onerous.

"It will be so naturally," he said. "We can use the additional men."

Partial Rationing Urged By Wolf To Help Feed Starving Nations

New York City.—Strong recommendation for partial rationing was voiced by President William Green and President of the AFL and president of the International Federation of Free Trade Unions, in an address before a Food for Freedom meeting here.

"I am sure there is no need to refer to the famine in many parts of the world," he said, "but there is also a famine in the supply of certain kinds of cereal products. There is a desperate need for fats and oils and an acute shortage of sugar, and likewise a shortage of meat.

"It is these foods whose equitable distribution here is essential that will enable us to fulfill our obligation to help save human life and prevent social, economic and political upheavals abroad during the next few months, and especially next winter.

"We are firmly convinced that lasting peace is possible only through international cooperation. This goal cannot be attained if there is not enough food to prevent widespread misery and death during the coming year.

Declaring there is "a lot of wishful thinking in Washington," Mr. Green said:

"Powerful opposition of entrenched special interests is forestalling an effective program. The administrations needs ready to support a concerted plan of action and to gamble on the possibility of success in saving the world from famine. This offers nothing but a gamble."

FIRST SUPPLEMENT DUE FOR PUBLICATION MAY 3

Washington, D. C.—The first issue of the special supplement to the AFL Weekly News Service will be published Friday, May 3, and each Friday thereafter for the convenience of the editors of the labor press.

The supplement will be identical in size and style with the regular issues of the news service which are printed Tuesdays and will be forwarded by fast mail to the labor press exclusively. This special service is expected to be highly beneficial to labor publications located west of the Mississippi River some of which have complained that the regular service reached them too late for their copy deadlines.

ARCHITECTS, DRAFTSMEN TRANSFER TO NEW OFFICES

Washington, D. C.—The International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Unions (AFL) has moved from the Mills Building to its new headquarters, Room 726, at 806 F Street N.W., Washington 4, D. C., Foster Pratt is international president.

DAVE BECK HONORED

Seattle.—Dave Beck, international vice president of the Teamsters Union (AFL), was named a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Washington by Gov. Mon C. Wallgren.

Immediately following his appointment Beck said he would address himself to educational problems of returning veterans.

AFL Demands OPA Renewal To Stop Profit Raid On Labor

Wartime No-Strike Pledge 'Well Kept,' Report Says

Washington, D. C.—Labor's "no-strike" pledge was "well kept" throughout the feverish toil of the war period, the Labor Department has announced after a careful study of work stoppages of every kind.

In the first complete analysis of interruptions to production, the department declared that in the 44 months of the war the man-days lost due to strikes amounted to only 11/100 of 1 percent of the time actually put in by the nation's workers.

The report showed, furthermore, that nearly all the stoppages that did occur were "small, spontaneous and unauthorized," and that these "were quickly terminated." Scarcely any strikes were authorized by national or international unions, the department pointed out.

"The record of the war years," the department declared, "union leaders usually cooperated with government agencies in securing a resumption of work with a minimum of loss of production."

In the last 4¼ months of 1945, after the war ended, man-day losses due to strikes were almost as great as in the entire 3½ years of the war.

The explanation for this sharp change in the situation, the department explained, is quite simple. When the war ended workers in many areas were reduced from 48 to 40 hours. This was reflected in a reduction of workers' earnings, "while the cost of living continued high, with some further advances" in certain items, the department said.

Many of the strikes, the department experts found, were directly traceable to bitter disputes over maintenance of "take-home" pay.

However, even with some large, protracted strikes, the loss so far in 1946 was equivalent only to 47/100 of 1 percent of the time put in by the workers, the survey showed.

Coal Negotiations Are Resumed; Anthracite Shutdown Threatened

Washington, D. C.—Direct negotiations between representatives of the United Mine Workers Union and the soft coal operators were resumed here after a 10-day lapse at the request of Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach.

Former Assistant Secretary of Labor Edward F. McGrady was appointed a special federal mediator in an attempt to work out settlement of the nation-wide mine shutdown.

Although no "concrete progress" was reported after the first conference, it was learned that the session showed an encouragingly cooperative attitude.

John L. Lewis, UMW president, is insisting that the coal operators enter into a new contract providing safeguarding the health and safety of the coal miners before discussing other questions such as the miners' wage increases and hours of work.

Earlier, at Hazelton, Pa., Mr. Lewis warned that a shutdown of the anthracite mines will take place at the expiration of the existing contract May 31, unless a new agreement is reached.

About 400 delegates to the Pennsylvania Tri-District Scale Convention heard Mr. Lewis blame the intransigence of the United States Steel Corp. for the shutdown of the soft coal mines.

Flourishing a copy of the corporation's 1945 financial report, Mr. Lewis emphasized that it had charged off reasonable terms.

$123,000,000 last year for wear and tear on plant facilities.

"It is mammoth corporation," said Mr. Lewis, "is holding the line against an agreement covering the safety and human welfare of the miners.

"We're going to see if U. S. Steel has any more right to write off inflations in depreciation for wear and exhaustion of plant facilities than the miners have to write off expenditures for the exhaustion of human facilities.

"The union leader said the hard coal miners' demands would be about the same as in the bituminous field, but he did not outline any specific program. It is expected that he will insist on health and safety provisions as well as wage increases.

He said the union is willing to meet the operators "half way" in the negotiations, but he did not predict any early acceptance from the industry. Contract improvements in the past, he recalled, were won "only when they were tortured out of the operators after long months of negotiation."

Meanwhile, industry throughout the nation began to feel the pinch of the coal shortage and pressure increased for prompt settlement of the mine dispute. This was considered an important and hopeful sign because from other industries would come the loudest cry that would compel the stubborn coal operators to talk business with the union on reasonable terms.

AFL to Aid UNO Council Draft World Job Plans

New York City.—As an official consultant to the Economic and Social Council of the UNO, the American Federation of Labor will be called upon soon to play an important role in the formulation of a program for full employment throughout the world.

This was learned here as the council's Economic and Employment Commission began exploring its task of raising the standard of living in all nations.

The functions and responsibilities of the commission are so broad and cover so many fields of economics that members say they have to spend many sessions putting them into concrete terms and creating the specific machinery for carrying them out.

Mr. Luddy, head of the Department of Economic Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, gave the commission members a brief idea of what was expected of them. He noted that in general the duties of the commission will fall into two categories: to supply the Economic and Social Council with expert advice on how the nations might best recover from the effects of war and set about constructing a new and better economy, and to appoint subcommissions to deal with pressing and important economic problems.

In connection with Mr. Green's address, the commission was called on to inform the Economic and Social Council, which meets here May 25, on the problems of economic reconstruction of war-ravaged areas. As part of that job it would have to find means of making immediate and long-term steps coincide with long-term policy.

The commission will also have to supply the council with advice on how to achieve the United Nations most important economic problem—the supplying of a job in every country to every person capable and willing to find it, Mr. Green went on. The commission will also have to deal with the economic problems of under-developed areas and the ways and means of bringing such areas to full productivity and full use of their resources.

HUTCHESON IS REELECTED PRESIDENT OF CARPENTERS

Lakeland, Fla.—William L. Hutcheson, president of the AFL United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners since 1916, was reelected to that post at the annual convention here. He will serve for 4 more years.

He was nominated without opposition, together with other officers and members of the executive board.

His son, Maurice A. Hutcheson, first vice president since 1938, was among the unopposed nominees. Others were Frank Duffy, general secretary; John R. Stevenson, second vice president, and Sturgeon P. Meeks, treasurer.

Reports to the delegates showed a membership record high of 722,000 and a treasury balance of more than $9,000,000.

'SAVING WAGE' IS URGED BY MINNESOTA LEADER

Chicago.—The present day goal of labor is not only a living wage but a "saving wage" President Robert A. Olson of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor told the national convention of AFL State, County and Municipal Employes.

President Olson pointed out that "such a wage should be high enough to cover all necessities, a few luxuries, an annual vacation at a resort and something for a 'rainy day.'"

MINE OWNERS SCARED BY AFL BROADCAST

Washington, D. C.—So effective did the April 27 "Cross Section—AFL" radio program prove in presenting the coal miners' case for a health and welfare fund that the coal operators demanded and obtained equal time from the Columbia Broadcasting System to offer a reply.

The program, broadcast from Charleston, W. Va., was largely made up of the true life stories of victims of coal mine accidents and their widows.

Since the AFL's May 4 time was turned over to the coal operators for their reply the next week "Cross Section—AFL" program, dealing with the printing trades, was postponed until May 11.

Green Urges Senate To Kill OPA "Death" Changes Passed By House

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green forcefully appealed to the U. S. Senate to protect the earnings of the nation's workers from conscienceless profiteering by extending OPA for another year without crippling amendments.

Denouncing the action of the House in approving amendments sponsored by the "price control death-lobby," Mr. Green told the Senate Banking and Currency Committee:

"I plead with the Senate to reject these amendments promptly and unhesitantly. Hesitation will only breed chaos. Delay will only multiply confusion.

"Every day of postponement of the decision will help the profiteer and hearten the speculator. If the Senate defers its final decision until the last minute, it may be too late—Congress will surely have driven the nation upon a journey into economic chaos."

Declaring he spoke for 25,000,000 Americans—the 7,000,000 members of the AFL and their families—Mr. Green painted a frightening picture of what may happen to wage earners if price control is suddenly tossed out the window.

"Experience with the removal of price controls to date is replete with examples of what would happen if the Congress legislated the OPA out of existence now," he said. "There are dozens of items already decontrolled on which prices have jumped as much as 100 percent in a matter of days.

"If the lid is taken off prematurely, this upward movement would be widespread and the cost of living would swiftly rise. That is America cannot afford and Congress must not permit."

Mr. Green emphasized that the AFL does not favor permanent price controls. But termination of controls must be an "orderly demobilization, not a haphazard stampede," he insisted. He warned that the OPA has been moving too fast in relaxing controls, citing the fact that it has granted 200 industry-wide increases since V-E Day in order to spur production and has allowed price adjustments to 20,000 business firms.

The "most dangerous" amendment passed by the House, Mr. Green declared, was the Gossett decontrol amendment which would compel lifting of price controls on the basis of a production formula which would automatically kill ceilings on half the entire list of consumer items.

A second, "cost-plus-profit" amendment, Mr. Green said, would erect price control and guarantee high profits to manufacturers on every article they produce. "It would be involved in trying to determine what would constitute a 'reasonable profit,' he warned, would completely paralyse OPA.

Mr. Green launched a vigorous attack on still another amendment designed to legislate subsidies on meats, dairy products, flour and certain canned vegetables. This is a deliberate attempt to force a sharp boost in the cost of living, he charged. Subsidies should be terminated as soon as conditions permit, Mr. Green granted, but this should be done gradually and without severe penalties to the nation's consumers.

"By extending price control for one year without these crippling amendments, Congress will not perpetuate government regulation indefinitely," Mr. Green said. "If it permits OPA to let go entirely instead of all at once, it will make the termination of controls more orderly and will make more certain that inflation will end sooner.

"The job is not clinging to the established controls just for the sake of control. Since V-J Day it has been lifting numerous controls, often more rapidly than we believe is safe.

"On behalf of the American Federation of Labor I plead for the sake of the future prosperity of the entire nation, I call upon the Senate to protect the American people from disaster by continuing OPA for one year."